

# UGEA-2190A Chinese Society

## Term I 2021-2022

### **Instructor**

Wensong Shen  
Room 438, Sino Building  
Tel: 39431210  
Email: wensongshen@cuhk.edu.hk  
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00 PM

### **Course Assistant**

HU Yuhan  
JIN Ge

### **Class Meetings**

Thursday, 10:30 AM – 1:15 PM  
Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA), LT5

### **Course Website**

The course website is available through CUHK's Blackboard at <https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk>. You will need to log in to your CUHK account to access this website.

### **Course Descriptions**

This course introduces a variety of fundamental facts and social science concepts for understanding and analyzing contemporary China from an integrated perspective. After taking this course, students should be able to grasp the current development in key areas of China, including economic reform, political system and change, rural and urban development, social inequality, education, family and marriage, demographic change, social welfare, environmental issues, cultural and ideological issues, as well as other institutional developments.

### **Objectives**

Students are expected to be familiar with the key concepts adopted from social sciences to understand and analyze the main aspects of social changes in contemporary China.

Students will grasp the basic knowledge about China's major institutions such as socialist market economy, party-state politics, stratification and family, etc.

In addition to the general knowledge, students should be able to have a deep understanding of a particular topic of China (such as the dilemma between economic development and income equality, environmental issues, one-child policy and two-child policy) through their writing assignments.

### **Textbook and Readings**

All readings of the course will be posted on Blackboard. No textbook is required, but the following book is recommended for reference. The readings are mainly assigned by the Chinese studies committee in the department of sociology.

Buoye, Thomas, Kirk Denton, Bruce Dickson, and Barry Naughton, eds. 2002. *China: Adapting the Past, Confronting the Future*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Center for Chinese Studies.

### **Academic Integrity**

Normal standards of academic integrity apply. The university adopts a “zero tolerance” policy on academic dishonesty. Please refer to the university’s policy and regulations at <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

#### *In-class Exercises*

A few class exercises will be conducted randomly over the semester (more likely to be reflection summary or poll). It will be conducted through paper-and-pencil or online approaches.

#### *Essays*

Students will write two essays. Students should select a topic from those covered in lectures and then analyze concisely and coherently. Each essay should be no more than 3 pages (references, tables, and figures excluded; 12pt font; 1-inch margins; 1.5 line spacing). Essays must be submitted via CUHK Veriguide.

The first essay should be submitted no later than **Oct. 21, 2021** and the second essay should be submitted no later than **Dec. 10, 2021**. Late submission will result in the loss of 5 points per day.

#### *Final Exam*

In the last class meeting, a final exam will be conducted. This exam will test students’ understanding of the key facts, concepts, and theories covered in lectures. The format of the final exam will be announced at least one week before the exam.

No make-up exam will be arranged.

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

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In-class exercises	10%
Essays	30%=60%
Final exam	30%

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#### Grade Descriptors

- A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
- B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
- C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
- D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
- F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.

## **Class Schedule**

Subject to Change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class.

\* denotes required readings and others are recommended readings.

### ***01. Sep.09 Introduction***

Storesletten, Kjetil, and Fabrizio Zilibotti. 2014. "China's Great Convergence and Beyond." *Annual Review of Economics* 6(1):333–62.

### ***02. Sep.16 China before the Reform Era: Before 1978***

Kung, James Kai-sing, and Justin Yifu Lin. 2003. "The Causes of China's Great Leap Famine, 1959–1961." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 52(1):51–73.

\*Saich, Tony. 2004. "China's Changing Road to Development: Political History, 1949–78." Pp. 25–56 in *Governance and Politics of China*, edited by T. Saich. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

### ***03. Sep.23 Economic Reform and Development: 1978 – now***

\*Lin, Justin Yifu, Fang Cai, and Zhou Li. 1998. "Competition, Policy Burdens, and State-Owned Enterprise Reform." *The American Economic Review* 88(2):422–27.

Nee, Victor. 1989. "A Theory of Market Transition: From Redistribution to Markets in State Socialism." *American Sociological Review* 54(5):663–81.

### ***04. Sep.30 Political System and Change***

Saich, Tony. 2000. "Negotiating the State: The Development of Social Organizations in China." *The China Quarterly* (161):124–41.

\*Walder, Andrew G. 1995. "The Quiet Revolution from within: Economic Reform as a Source of Political Decline." Pp. 1–24 in *The waning of the communist state: Economic origins of political decline in China and Hungary*, edited by A. G. Walder. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Yang, Dali L. 2006. "Economic Transformation and Its Political Discontents in China: Authoritarianism, Unequal Growth, and the Dilemmas of Political Development." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9:143–64.

### **05. Oct.07 Rural-urban Divide, Urbanization, and Migration**

Chan, Kam Wing, and Li Zhang. 1999. "The Hukou System and Rural-Urban Migration in China: Processes and Changes." *The China Quarterly* (160):818–55.

\*Liang, Zai. 2016. "China's Great Migration and the Prospects of a More Integrated Society." *Annual Review of Sociology* 42:451–71.

++ **Oct. 14 No Class**

### **06. Oct.21 Social Stratification and Inequality**

\*Bian, Yanjie. 2002. "Chinese Social Stratification and Social Mobility." *Annual Review of Sociology* 28(1):91–116.

Xie, Yu, and Xiang Zhou. 2014. "Income Inequality in Today's China." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 111(19):6928–33.

### **07. Oct.28 Education and Class Reproduction**

Hao, Lingxin, and Xiao Yu. 2017. "Sources of Unequal Cognitive Development of Middle-School Students in China's Rural–Urban Migration Era." *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 3(1):32–55.

\*Wu, Xiaogang, and Zhuoni Zhang. 2010. "Changes in Educational Inequality in China, 1990–2005: Evidence from the Population Census Data." Pp. 123–52 in *Globalization, changing demographics, and educational challenges in East Asia*, edited by E. Hannum, H. Park, and Y. G. Butler. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

### **08. Nov.04 Population and Demographic Transition**

\*Greenhalgh, Susan. 2003. "Science, Modernity, and the Making of China's One-Child Policy." *Population and Development Review* 29(2):163–96.

Zeng, Yi. 2007. "Options for Fertility Policy Transition in China." *Population and Development Review* 33(2):215–46.

Zhao, Zhongwei, and Wei Chen. 2011. "China's Far below Replacement Fertility and Its Long-Term Impact: Comments on the Preliminary Results of the 2010 Census." *Demographic Research* 25:819–36.

### **09. Nov.11 Family, Gender and Marriage**

Du, Fenglian, and Xiao-Yuan Dong. 2013. "Women's Employment and Child Care Choices in Urban China during the Economic Transition." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 62(1):131–55.

Shu, Xiaoling, and Yanjie Bian. 2003. "Market Transition and Gender Gap in Earnings in Urban China." *Social Forces* 81(4):1107–45.

\*Whyte, Martin King. 2005. "Continuity and Change in Urban Chinese Family Life." *The China Journal* 53:9–33.

### **10. Nov.18 Social Welfare and Healthcare**

Adams, Jennifer, and Emily Hannum. 2005. "Children's Social Welfare in China, 1989–1997: Access to Health Insurance and Education." *The China Quarterly* 181:100–121.

Blumenthal, David, and William Hsiao. 2005. "Privatization and Its Discontents: The Evolving Chinese Health Care System." *The New England Journal of Medicine* 353(11):1165–70.

\*Selden, Mark, and Laiyin You. 1997. "The Reform of Social Welfare in China." *World Development* 25(10):1657–68.

### **11. Nov.25 Social Conflict in China**

Lee, Ching Kwan, and Yonghong Zhang. 2013. "The Power of Instability: Unraveling the Microfoundations of Bargained Authoritarianism in China." *American Journal of Sociology* 118(6):1475–1508.

\*Walder, Andrew G. 2009. "Unruly Stability: Why China's Regime Has Staying Power." *Current History* 108(719):257–63.

### **12. Dec.02 Environmental Issues & Course Review**

Tong, Yanqi. 2007. "Bureaucracy Meets the Environment: Elite Perceptions in Six Chinese Cities." *The China Quarterly* (189):100–121.

\*Yang, Guobin. 2010. "Brokering Environment and Health in China: Issue Entrepreneurs of the Public Sphere." *Journal of Contemporary China* 19(63):101–18.